

Access SC SDB

Embrace the Possibilities — Access the Future SC School for the Deaf and the Blind

New Programs, New Technology, New Buildings

New and improved buildings will soon house our new programs and new technology. Construction on \$8 million in facility improvements will begin this spring.

"Thanks to the support of our state Legislature, we will be able to make substantial facility improvements over the next few years," said Maggie Park, school president. "In recent years, we have been able to make significant program and technology improvements, and we are very grateful to now have the opportunity to revitalize our buildings."

Building improvements will include:

Robertson Hall Addition

Larger classrooms with learning centers for elementary education will be important features of the new educational wing in Robertson Hall, home of the School for the Blind. The 9,500 square foot addition will also allow for the conversion of old classrooms to space for therapists, counselors, computer labs, and common areas.

New Early Childhood Education Center

Students will have more room to move, grow, and explore in the new Early Childhood Education Center. The center will be more convenient for parents and more accessible for strollers and wheelchairs. The new 9,000 square foot building will serve all campus students under the age of five, and will allow for more non-disabled children to attend through our reverse mainstream program. It will also allow for expansion of elementary programs in existing buildings.

Pennell Complex

The many new programs in the Applied Academics Center will be better served by a new building and extensive renovations. An elevator will increase accessibility to the center from the south end of campus.

A new building, designed to meet today's technology needs, will house the Denny's Kitchen and food service classrooms, computer labs, and technology intensive programs. Renovated buildings will house the Retail Training Center, carpentry, industrial technology, auto mechanics, welding, small engine repair, agriculture, horticulture, small animals, and prevocational training. An additional greenhouse will be constructed.

Pre-school teacher Katie Nordstrom reads a book with Lexus Hunter, left, of Spartanburg and Amberlyn Feno of Boiling Springs.



Students and teachers cheer at the Homecoming Pep Rally.

New Technology

Technology designed to enhance safety, accessibility, and independence continues to be a high priority. New technology includes:

Kindle E-readers

English classes are using Kindle e-readers thanks to a donation from Amazon.

Survey Kiosks

Let us hear your ideas through our new survey kiosks. Touch screens make it easy for you to evaluate our services and share your ideas. You'll find the new kiosks in the lobby of each of our schools and Columbia outreach center.

Look for more new technology in the spring edition!



New Programs

New programs designed to increase job opportunities abound in the Applied Academics Program.



Teacher D.H. Blackwelder shows students how to change camera lenses. From left are Alexis Tabb of Spartanburg, Elizabeth Berg of Moore, and Ashley Williams of Marion.



Applied Academics teacher Mac Middleton and Drequan Cheeks of Spartanburg practice changing oil.



Iosep MacDougall teaches a class in the completely updated graphic arts lab.



Fernandez Johnson of Lancaster wires a ceiling fan as teacher D.H. Blackwelder and Sierra Hardy of Greenville hold the ladder.

Learning a Skill While Making a Difference

Carpentry students are building character while constructing a house. As volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, the students are helping build an affordable house for a low-income family in need. At the same time, they're learning valuable job skills including frame work, dry wall, roofing, siding installation, painting, and trim work.

Habitat construction supervisor Joseph Walker talks with carpentry students Jasmine Elleby, Rhonte Levine, Hermani Mesilien, Cleveland Hallman, and woodworking teacher Johnny Breitenbach. Barbara Wilder interprets.



Welcome to Access SCSDB!

It just keeps getting better and better at the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. In this issue, you will read about new technology, new programs, and new facilities, but that's just part of the story. We're also continually evaluating our existing programs and services to ensure that they are the best they can be.



Margaret Park
SCSDB President

We recently completed our second accreditation review this year, and I am pleased to announce that both teams recommended full accreditation for another five years. The two accreditation teams included the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf. The teams evaluated multiple areas including education, health and safety, student services, and student life and activities.

Through this voluntary accreditation process, we learned that we are doing many things very well. We also learned of a few areas that we need to keep working on.

We are grateful to the many organizations and individuals that have contributed to our success. Support from the state Legislature, donors, parents, and educational partners are vital to all of our accomplishments. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,

Maggie

Margaret Park
President, SCSDB

"Maggie" Park has 21 years' experience in special education positions including teacher, program director, principal, division director, adjunct professor, and administrator. She was the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind's first National Board certified teacher.

Coming Up at SCSDB!

- 12/21 **Holiday Programs in All Schools, School Improvement Council**
SCSDB
- 1/18-21 **Adventures in Braille**
SCSDB
- 2/7 **SC Regional Braille Challenge**
Columbia
- 2/15 **School Improvement Council Meeting**
11:00 a.m., SCSDB
- 3/1 **Vision Summit**
SC Archives and History Center, Columbia

Please see our full calendar at www.scsdb.org. For more information on events or any of the articles in this publication, please contact us at info@scsdb.org or toll-free at 1-888-447-2732, extension 7506.

SCSDB Gold Stars!

Fine Arts Student Receives International Recognition

Kaitlin Wilson's self-portrait is on display in Washington, DC as a winner in the VSA international competition. The US Department of Education is displaying the artwork in their lobby during the exhibit and will later move it to permanent display in their office space. Kaitlin's self-portrait included a silhouette, a stack of school books, friends dancing and listening to music, and a book worm with an open book.



Kaitlin Wilson of Taylors

Class of 2012 graduate **Mariah Jackson of Beaufort** won a bronze medal in the United States Women's 4X100 meter relay at the World Deaf Olympics in Toronto, Canada.



Bocce athletes were rewarded for great teamwork at the Fall Special Olympics. **Tylik McKenzie** and **Jason Harmon** won gold. Silver pairs included **Josie Segura** and **Kaneesha Sampson**, **Ther Tee Vang** and **Area 9 Athlete**, and **Ashley Boatwright** and **Mai Lee**. Bronze recipients were **Chandler Horton** and **Kadiedra Hay**.



Jason Harmon of Spartanburg rolls the bocce ball as Tylik McKenzie of Sumter looks on.



Homecoming Court Crowned

President Maggie Park announced Homecoming royalty. Front Row: School for the Blind Prince Christian Reed of Chesnee, School for the Deaf Princess Paige Covert of Greenville, and School for the Blind Prince Ashton Reed of Chesnee. Back Row: School for the Deaf Queen Meka Minton of Rock Hill and King Cleveland Hallman of Columbia; Cedar Springs Academy Queen Shemeisha Cockfield of Olanta, President Maggie Park, Cedar Springs Academy King Chris Elguea of Moore; and School for the Blind Queen Roxie Reed of Anderson and King Jeremy Ponder of Fountain Inn.

Students Excel in Athletics

The Little Hornets took the YMCA soccer championship after an undefeated season. The team of 9-12 year olds included: **Andrew Bibbs**, **Marirose Fernandes**, **Faith Glover**, **Chase Hanna**, **Jayquan Jenkins**, **Everette Ladson**, **Will McDonald**, **Ta'Nayia Moates**, **Alashia Pifner**, **Jacob Scarborough**, **Tyrell Stevenson**, **Cory Thompson**, **Kayla Wiegand**, **Angel Williams**, manager **Cordarius Moore**, and coach **Ally Nagy**.



Will McDonald of Pacolet (center) grins with pride as the team celebrates the championship game.



The unified soccer team won the gold at the Fall Special Olympics. Players included: partners Jacklin Fleifel and Amanda Goodenough; athlete Laquitia Harris, partner Kimberly Bradley; and athletes Curtis Sparkman, Neal Ellis, James Brown, Maya Patterson, and Dominique Dotson.

Welcome New Students!

Pictured left to right

School for the Blind

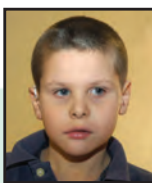
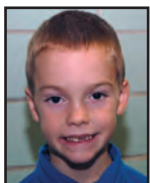
Grace Bridges of Spartanburg
India Hare of Columbia
Iris Hare of Columbia
Malachi Stoddard-Tims of Gray Court
Christopher Swafford of Spartanburg

School for the Deaf

Bradley Eller of Spartanburg
Raheem Jenkins of Sumter
Hermani Mesilien of Whitmire
Daniel Martin of Spartanburg
David Martin of Spartanburg

Cedar Springs Academy

Alexus Blandshaw of Columbia
Ron'Ziya Boyd of Clinton
Amberlyn Feno of Boling Springs
Elliot Germany of Columbia
Anna Palaghia of Greenville
Zeria Parker of Barnwell
Ja'Kiya Pressley of Chester



**The students listed had enrolled at the publication deadline. New enrollees are welcome year-round.*



The volleyball team earned second place in the Spike Out Tournament at the Kentucky School for the Deaf. **Telcia Avery** and **Sierra Hardy** were named All Spike-Out Tournament players. **Kia Smith** was selected Best Defensive Player.

The stand out volleyball team includes from left standing: Chelsea Spann, assistant coach Debra Duke, Chanel Hardy, Keona Williams, Shelicia Wilkins, Sierra Hardy, CeCe Brown, and coach Amelia England. Kneeling are: Telcia Avery, Destiny McCarter, Sarah Castor, Kia Smith, and Lindsey Shafto.



At the recent Technology Olympics, Jill Ischinger tried out monoculars with students Fatima Taylor of Jesse Boyd Elementary in Spartanburg, Christian Moore of Swansea High School in Swansea, and Chris Hawk of Cherokee Granard Middle School in Gaffney. Jill is manager of the Instructional Resource Center located on the campus of the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. The Instructional Resource Center provides all braille and large print books to school districts throughout the state.

Parent Jacqueline Booker uses a new survey kiosk. (see page one, new technology)



Students in the Cedar Springs Academy teamed up to make an American flag using "I Love You" hand signs for Veterans Day. The flag was sent to soldiers in Kuwait. Students learned about the country of Kuwait, the map location of Kuwait, and soldiers serving in Kuwait. Hayley Melba, a sophomore at Byrnes High School, assisted the students as a job shadowing experience.

We're Proud to be State Employer of the Year

Our school has been named State Employer of the Year by both the National Federation of the Blind and the SC Commission for the Blind. A full 17.6% of our full-time employees are deaf or blind.



Favorite High School Class Becomes Future Career

Public speaking was **Bishoy Fargalla's** favorite class in high school. In that class, he found that he was good at writing and delivering speeches. He also found a future career.

A graduate of the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind's Class of 2012, Bishoy is pursuing a college degree in communications. He is planning to use

his speech writing skills as a corporate publicist.

Bishoy first realized that he had a talent for public speaking while in a mainstream class at Spartanburg High School. Through a partnership with Spartanburg School District 7, students can take classes in the local district assisted by SCSDB staff.

Now a freshman at Spartanburg

Methodist College, Bishoy enjoys his new found freedom as a college student living in a resident hall. He has good grades taking Spanish, English, sociology and, of course — public speaking. He is able to attend at no cost thanks to assistance from the college's financial aid department, the National Federation of the Blind, and the SC Tuition Assistance Program.

Enrolling in the SC School for the Blind as a junior from Ft. Mill, Bishoy enjoyed the athletic opportunities available at the school. He took first place at the Eastern Athletic Association for the Blind Wrestling Tournament and competed in goalball, a game designed for athletes who are visually impaired. At Spartanburg High's homecoming game, he served as the Viking mascot.

"Hanging out with friends" was one of Bishoy's favorite activities at the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. He also enjoyed giving back to the school as a tutor for students in the Transition Living Center. "The tutoring program was very helpful to me in learning to work with others."

Working with others and communicating effectively are great skills that Bishoy picked up in high school. Now, he'll carry them through life. Best wishes, Bishoy!

S-C-S-D-B, Bully Free!

Bully-free fun and friendship were emphasized at the campus-wide kick off for our bullying prevention program. Students cheered, performed skits, danced, and signed pledge cards as part of the kick off.

All campus staff members received training in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. The SC School for the Deaf and the Blind is joining other schools across the country who have recognized bullying as a nationwide problem that can be addressed effectively through prevention programs.

High school students perform at the Bully Free Kickoff.



Kelly Cheeseman of Amazon's corporate office tries out the new Kindles with Brianna Shirley of Spartanburg and Tyreece McCoy of Chester.

Help America Vote Students learned how to access voting machines and cast their votes during a recent visit of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) representatives. From left are Teresa Jones of Richland, Jon LaGuerre of Kingstree, and Hampton Miller of HAVA.





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South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind
355 Cedar Springs Road - Spartanburg, SC 29302

Non-Profit Organization
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Embracing the Possibilities

The SC School for the Deaf and the Blind works with parents and professionals to help identify and develop each student's highest potential. Together with local school districts, we strive to match children who are deaf or blind with the best educational options to meet their individual needs.

Options available through the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind include:

- Early intervention programs for infants and toddlers
- PreK-12 education programs on the main campus in Spartanburg (residential and day)
- Specialized vision and hearing services in local school districts statewide
- Mainstreaming opportunities with Spartanburg area school districts
- Summer Camps for children ages 6-14
- A wide variety of accessibility services

All services are available at no cost to families.

Contact Us!

SCSDB Main Campus - Spartanburg

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Statewide Division of Outreach Services

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(803) 896-9848 Fax
101 Executive Center Drive
Suite 120, Saluda Building
Columbia, SC 29210



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SCSDB is Accredited by:

- *Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement*
- *Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf*
- *SC Department of Education*

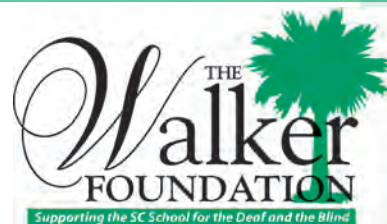
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